

1 D. DISCUSSION OF PRIOR ART AND BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

2 The subject invention is a bandage member similar to a [band
3 aid] BAND AID which is adapted to cover a wound, infected area, or
4 sore on a person's skin. This invention is considered to be a re-
5 finement or improvement on the existing status of such [band aid]
6 BAND AID.

7 As is well known, [band aids] BAND AIDS are used to cover a cut,
8 wound or even some infected area on the skin to protect that area from
9 further germs or other exacerbations of the problem area. These bandage
10 members are well known and effective to cover a wounded area from
11 exacerbation or further problems, and are generally effective for such
12 purposes. Moreover, in the more recent evolutions, the undersurface
13 of the [band aid] BAND AID may be coated with an antibiotic as a
14 further protective measure for the wound.

15 Moreover, not all skin surface problems are just wounds, as many
16 problems may include skin infections such as warts, psoriasis, plant
17 poison reactions, general surface infections not caused by skin
18 wounds, and numerous other problems, including skin cancers. For
19 these types of skin problems, it is common to use non-prescription
20 ointments such as salves, or creams with some antibiotic properties,
21 or other healing agents. Additionally, for more severe skin condi-
22 tions, prescription drugs in the form of cream applications or salves,
23 or external medicinal applications are prescribed and used.

24 A large percentage of these skin problems are usually localized
25 in a given skin area, sometimes being as small as a few centimeters
26 in diameter or less, while others are a little larger. Some skin
27 disorders may be widespread and covering large areas of the skin

1 over which area some medicine needs to be applied.

2 As to the localized and smaller areas of skin disorders to which
3 medicine is to be applied, once the prescribed medication is applied
4 to the specific skin area, there is no general or effective means to
5 keep the medication in place for the necessary duration to treat the
6 skin area. For example, the nature of the substances used for
7 medical treatment results in the substance spreading beyond the skin
8 problem area to areas that are not infected or affected by the
9 problem. The spreading or movement of the treating medication can
10 be aggravated by the body movements, and the medication, depending on its
11 location, can be picked up by and absorbed by clothing or other contact.
12 In short, when the medication is applied to a localized problem skin
13 area, there is no effective means to keep medication in place in
14 sufficiently concentrated amounts to adequately treat the area. Apply-
15 ing a [band aid] BAND AID over the medicated area helps to some degree
16 but using such could result only in more spreading or absorption of
17 the medication in a large surface area of the [band aid] BAND AID

18 The problem discussed above is not simply a problem of losing
19 the effectiveness of concentrated amounts of a necessary medication.
20 There is the additional problem that such medications often have
21 some deleterious and adverse effect on non-infected skin areas, and
22 the problem of having the medication spreading to non-infected
23 areas may result in skin damage to such areas, particularly when
24 the applied medication has caustic or other dangerous side effects
25 to the skin. Under such latter circumstances, it is important and
26 vital to keep the medication localized to the problem areas as much

1 G. DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

2 In describing the preferred embodiment, it is to be stressed
3 that the following description is of only one embodiment within the
4 overall scope of the subject invention and that the subject invention
5 may encompass other embodiments, as seen in the claims annexed hereto.
6 Therefore, the following description shall not be considered as
7 limiting the scope of the invention herein, as more fully set forth
8 in the claims annexed hereto.

9 Referring now to the drawings in which a preferred embodiment
10 of the subject invention is shown. A [band aid] BAND AID 10 is shown
11 as being the device incorporating the features of the subject invention,
12 such device 10 being basically comprised of a longitudinally extending
13 [band aid] BAND AID member 10 having a first end 20 and a second end 30,
14 and a first lateral side edge 40 and a second lateral side edge 45.
15 Such [band aid] BAND AID has an upper surface 50 and a lower surface
16 60. The upper surface 50 of the [band aid] BAND AID member is comprised
17 of a protective material such as plastic, fabric or other material to
18 shield the skin from germs, moisture or other substances that would
19 interfere with the healing of the skin or infected area on the skin.
20 The lower surface 60 of the [band aid] BAND AID has areas covered with
21 adhesive substances to help adhere the [band aid] BAND AID to the
22 specific areas of the skin. It is noted that in this particular
23 embodiment of the invention, it may be preferable to have the entire
24 lower surface 60 of the [band aid] BAND AID coated with adhesive
25 material, as an option to having some bandage material in the middle
26 portion. By this arrangement, there will be adhesive materials

1 surrounding the bottom of the opening in the [band aid] BAND AID
2 to keep the lower surface 60 sealed against the skin to block the
3 radially outer movement of applied medication away from the wound
4 or infected area. This aspect is more fully discussed below.

5 As thus far described above, the [band aid] BAND AID structure
6 is generally conventional. In the preferred embodiment of the subject
7 invention, an upper entrance opening 100 is formed in the upper
8 surface 50 of the [band aid] BAND AID 10, preferably but not essen-
9 tially circular, which opening extends completely through the [band aid]
10 BAND AID from such upper surface to bottom surface 60 to a lower exit
11 opening on the lower surface. This opening may have as an optional
12 feature a conformingly-shaped cup 120, which is seated concentrically
13 and securely in the opening 100 so that the cup 120 is held firmly
14 within the opening. As seen, the cup 120 would have a bottom opening
15 130 and a top opening 140 into which medicine can be poured to be
16 held temporarily in the cup to seep down through a narrowed throat
17 150 in the cup to the bottom opening 130. The bottom opening
18 would preferably be large enough to encircle the wound or infected
19 area. The upper opening of the cup 120 would have a closure lid 170
20 which would be fastened in place after the medicine is placed on the
21 wound.

22 Alternately, the opening 100 may not have a cup therein, and
23 medication could simply be placed in the opening to cover the parti-
24 cular area of the skin involved. In one embodiment of this latter
25 structure, the upper opening may have a cover flap 200 to be placed
26 flush against the opening and sealed at the other end to the upper
27 portion of the [band aid] BAND AID.